

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020498

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL'S CALL ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY JANUARY 27,
NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT DEPSEC'S
CHARACTERIZATION OF U.S.-NEPAL RELATIONS AS "VERY GOOD";
DISCUSSED NEPAL'S DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH INDIA; INQUIRED
ABOUT INDO-U.S. AND CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS, PROSPECTS IN
MIDDLE EAST, AND STATUS OF DETENTE; AND ASKED ABOUT
STATUS OF U.S. CORONATION DELEGATION. DEPSEC SAID U.S.
RELATIONS WITH INDIA CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, U.S.-CHINA
RELATIONS PROGRESSING IN KEEPING WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE;
EXPRESSED OPTIMISM AT PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER STEPS TOWARD
MIDEAST PEACE; SAW BOTH U.S. AND SOVIETS AS DESIRING
CONTINUATION OF DETENTE; ASSURED KHANAL OF GOOD CORONATION
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DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. NEPALESE AMBASSADOR YADU NATH KHANAL, ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY RIMAL, CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL JANUARY 27. LAINGEN AND LORTON SAT IN.

3. KHANAL INFORMED DEPUTY SECRETARY HE EXPECTED LEAVE

FOR NEPAL DURING FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY TO ATTEND KING BIRENDRA'S CORONATION FEBRUARY 24. IN REPLY TO KHANAL'S REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT OF U.S.-NEPAL RELATIONS, DEPSEC SAID THEY WERE VERY GOOD. KHANAL EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THIS, SAID HE WOULD REPORT ACCORDINGLY, AND QUERIED WHETHER HE WAS RIGHT IN ASSUMING U.S. AID WILL CONTINUE. DEPSEC SAID ADMINISTRATION IS DEDICATED TO CONTINUATION OF OUR FOREIGN AID POLICY BUT NOTED DIFFICULTIES ON CAPITOL HILL. U.S. WANTS TO CONTINUE ITS AID TO NEPAL BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW NOW IN WHAT AMOUNTS THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

4. REFERRING TO "DIFFICULT" RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND WHAT HE CALLED "ANGER" OF INDIANS, KHANAL OBSERVED PRESS REPORTS INDICATED INDIA STILL CRITICAL OF NEPAL EVEN THOUGH STATEMENTS ISSUED AT TIME OF PRIME MINISTER RIJAL'S VISIT TO INDIA INDICATED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. KHANAL ATTRIBUTED CRITICISM TO INDIAN SENSITIVITY OVER NEPALESE REACTION TO SIKKIM, PARTICULARLY STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. HE SAID EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BECAUSE NEPAL MUST HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA. IN THIS CONTEXT HE ASKED FOR DEPSEC'S ASSESSMENT OF INDO-U.S. AND INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS.

5. DEPSEC REPLIED OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA CONTINUE TO IMPROVE FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S VISIT WHICH HAD CREATED GOOD FOUNDATION FOR BROADENING OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF SEVERAL MEETINGS OF JOINT SUBCOMMISSIONS, AND EXPECTED VISITS BY INDIAN OFFICIALS IN MARCH WILL BE FURTHER EXTENSION OF OUR EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TREND OF IMPROVING RELATIONS. LAINGEN OBSERVED THAT ALONG WITH BETTER RELATIONS WITH

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INDIA, WE VALUE AND INTEND TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. DEPSEC AFFIRMED THIS, STATING THAT ALONG WITH OUR RECOGNITION OF INDIA AS MAJOR POWER IN THE AREA WENT OUR VIEW THAT INDIA SHOULD CONDUCT ITSELF WITH RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

6. DEPSEC COMMENTED THAT U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS WERE

PROGRESSING IN KEEPING WITH SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.
CONTRARY TO RUMORS THAT CHINESE THINK WE ARE NOT MOVING
FAST ENOUGH, THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT CHINESE
ARE PATIENT. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS AND
STRENGTHEN THEM AS WE MOVE ALONG. CHOU EMERGED FROM
RECENT CONGRESS FURTHER STRENGTHENED AND WE DO NOT FORE-
SEE ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY. REPLYING TO
QUERY FROM KHANAL, DEPSEC SAID HE BELIEVED SECRETARY

AND PRESIDENT FELT PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO CHINA DESIRABLE
TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

7. KHANAL ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF U.S. CORONATION
DELEGATION. DEPSEC SAID IT HAS NOT YET BEEN SELECTED,
BUT THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD DELEGATION EXPRESSING OUR
WARM FEELING TOWARD NEPAL. KHANAL SAID HE HOPED VERY
MUCH THIS WOULD BE TRUE GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF U.S.-
NEPAL RELATIONS AND DELICATE STAGE OF INDO-NEPAL
RELATIONS.

8. KHANAL ALSO ASKED FOR DEPSEC'S VIEWS ON PROSPECTS
IN MIDDLE EAST AND STATUS OF DETENTE. DEPSEC REPLIED
WE WERE OPTIMISTIC FURTHER STEPS TOWARD PEACE COULD
BE TAKEN IN MIDDLE EAST IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, THAT THESE
REQUIRED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF POLITICAL CONDITIONING SO
PARTIES COULD ACCEPT NECESSARY CHANGE. AS PART OF THE
PROCESS ALLON HAD BEEN HERE, WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
SYRIANS, JORDANIANS, AND EGYPTIANS THROUGH OUR
AMBASSADORS, AND SECRETARY PLANNING ANOTHER TRIP TO
THE AREA NEXT MONTH. WITH REGARD TO DETENTE, DEPSEC
SAW SOVIET REJECTION OF TRADE BILL AS SETBACK, AT
LEAST IN AREA OF TRADE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS
OF SETBACKS ELSEWHERE; WE BOTH WANT TO CONTINUE DETENTE
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WHICH WE SEE IN OUR INTERESTS AND INTERESTS OF REST OF
THE WORLD. KISSINGER

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